



**FMB To Enter 96th Country****FMB Votes Funds For Storm Victims, Refugees**

By Robert L. Stanley

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Faced with major relief needs on two sides of the world, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has voted \$70,000 to help feed refugees fleeing oppression in Cambodia and approved funds released earlier on an emergency basis for Caribbean hurricane victims.

The board had to scrape the bottom of its general relief fund barrel to find \$35,000 to buy medical supplies, blankets and other non-food items needed immediately by the thousands of people left homeless by Hurricane David.

Almost no general relief money is left to help more than 60,000 Cambodian refugees huddled without shelter or food along the Thailand border. The \$70,000 voted from hunger relief funds will provide food for these refugees, but other funds are needed to provide tents, medicine, or nets to protect against the swarming mosquitoes.

**Cambodian Refugees**

Area Secretary William R. Wakefield, in an urgent telephone request from Bangkok, Thailand, estimated that between 60,000 and 70,000 Cambodian refugees have been living along the Thai border for weeks, hoping for entrance into the neighboring country.

**Hurricane David**

The Foreign Mission Board also received reports on progress of relief efforts in the Caribbean, where Hurricane David devastated the tiny island of Dominica and took a heavy toll in both lives and property on the Dominican Republic. Martinique received a glancing blow from the storm. W. Eugene Grubbs, consultant for

laymen overseas and relief ministries, said the U.S. Department informed him Southern Baptists were the first on the scene with relief for Dominica. John R. Cheyne, associate consultant for relief ministries, accompanied the first U.S. teams into Dominica and personally coveyed \$10,000 in Southern Baptist funds and \$5,000 in Baptist World Alliance aid to begin relief work there.

A total of \$90,000 in relief and hunger funds has been appropriated for relief ministries on the two islands.

Area Secretary Charles W. Bryan expressed gratitude to God for the safety of all 35 Southern Baptist missionaries and personnel who were on the three islands hardest hit by the hurricane. He praised the relief and medical efforts as "one of the finest responses we've been able to make to a disaster of this magnitude."

Southern Baptists entered Bophuthatswana, another of the 10 tribal homelands in South Africa, in 1977.

**Sudan Entry**

Work will start Jan. 1 in the Sudan, Africa's largest country, which is bordered by Egypt and by Ethiopia on the Southeast. Recent visits convinced field representative James E. Hampton and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald R. Bodenhamer, a Kenya missionary couple, that the Bodenhamers should begin work in the southern portion where a majority of the black population are animists.

The Bodenhamers' transfer, effective Jan. 1, would make the Sudan the 96th Southern Baptist mission field if no other new areas are entered late in 1979.

**Positive Witness Given While Others Protest**

(Continued from Page 1)

ideas. They met with several church members and the pastor. Peach talked with them about the church, the denomination and Baptist beliefs.

"But most exciting of all was able to share the message of salvation," Peach said. "As I explained about Christ and God's plan for man, they displayed a genuine interest. They offered many sincere questions and a discussion ensued."

"They told of their beliefs and made an honest effort to understand ours. It was a time of openness and sharing. No converts were made, but it is our prayer that the seed has been planted. They had never before heard the plan of salvation... Their response was one of interest and curiosity."

**Northwest Leader Named New Florida Executive**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Dan C. Stringer, executive director-treasurer of the Northwest Baptist Convention for eight years, has been elected executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

Stringer, 41, will assume his Florida position Nov. 1. He succeeds Harold C. Bennett, who resigned to become executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee.

"Leaving the Northwest has been a real grief experience for my wife and me," Stringer told Baptist Press. "It has been frontier territory, especially with the expansion of the work in Canada."



Stringer

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**Pastoral Leadership Conference**

These men were in attendance at a recent meeting at the Baptist Building in Jackson. The meeting was on the theme "Pastoral Leadership for Growth and Priority." It was sponsored by the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. From left to right are Walter Price, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fulton; Gary Breland, pastor of Gum Springs Baptist Church, Braxton; Bruce Grubbs, of the Baptist Sunday School Board and guest lecturer; and James Scirratt, pastor of Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson. Price came the farthest for the meeting, and Breland and Scirratt were pastors of the smallest and largest churches represented.

The old Jordan-Prince Williams central school building in Nassau is being renovated into offices, a workshop and an auditorium for the use of the executives and committees of the Bahamas National Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention. This building is next door to the present headquarters, which are in a small house converted for the purpose.

Washington (EP) — A combination of tightened controls and bad weather has caused a dramatic drop in the flow of Indochinese refugees from more than 65,000 in May to less than 8,000 in the first half of August, says the U.S. State Department. Tabulations show refugees entering other Southeast Asian nations dropped to 56,890 in June, and to 27,208 in July.

**SBC Executive Committee Approves \$90 Million Budget**

(Continued from Page 1)

Dental insurance as a part of the hospitalization and medical insurance plan was added for committee employees.

Resolutions of appreciation were adopted for two retiring state executive secretaries. They were for John J. Sneden of West Virginia and Ray E. Roberts of Ohio.

At the request of the convention the committee considered the production and distribution of Soul-Winner's New Testaments and referred the matter to the Sunday School Board and the Home Mission Board.

**Loan Authorization**

Midwestern Seminary was authorized to borrow up to an amount equivalent to the "shortfall" of Cooperative Program gifts to cover possible shortage of capital needs funds resulting from less Cooperative Program receipts than anticipated for the 1978-79 Cooperative Program budget. And the seminary was authorized to borrow up to \$140,000 against individual contributors pledges for interim financing for the construction of a child development center.

The Christian Life Commission had requested funding for a consortium on

TV rating system. This was referred back to the commission with the request that it be made a part of the commission's 1980-81 Cooperative Program allocation budget request.

A convention resolution on local church mission teams was referred to the bold mission thrust steering committee for study of its relationship to the Bold Mission Thrust and to the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, the Brotherhood Commission, and the Woman's Missionary Union for implementation.

Finally, the committee requested the Bold Mission Thrust Steering

**Jack Glaze Will Chair MC Division Of Religion**

Two new faculty members have been approved by the Board of Trustees of Mississippi College for the Division of Religion.

A. Jackson Glaze, missionary to Argentina, will chair the Division of Religion and serve as professor of religion. He succeeds the late W. W. Stevens. Roger Glaze

Glaze has been named associate professor of religion. Glaze, a native of D'Lo, received the B.A. from Mississippi College and Bachelor of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary.

Since 1955 he has been Professor of Old Testament at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was president of the institution, 1966-1974, and Director of Graduate Studies from 1977 until the present.

While on leave from the Foreign Mission Board from 1975-77, he was visiting professor of Old Testament Interpretation at Louisville.

Glaze is married to the former Jean Johnson of Greenwood, S.C. Two of their children are graduates of Mississippi College and the other two are currently enrolled.

Because of commitments on the mission field, Glaze will not join the faculty until December, 1979.

**Roger Greene**

Roger Greene, a native of Natchitoches, La., has been named an associate professor of religion. He holds a B.A. in English from Louisiana Tech. At Southern Seminary he earned both Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

Since 1975, he has served as assistant professor of religion at Palm Beach Atlantic College in Lake Park, Fla.

He is married to the former Martha Julia Dickerson of Jonesboro, Louisiana, and they are the parents of two sons, ages seven and four.

Greene's areas of specialization include New Testament language, New Testament literature, New Testament history, and Christian ethics.

**Life-Changing Results Sought**

(Continued from Page 1)

can change our world through life-changing commitment.

Mrs. W. C. (Frances) Tyler, professor of Bible, Blue Mountain College, will lead the Bible study during the Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon sessions.

BYW's methods conferences will be offered and lead by Mrs. Kenneth (Elaine) Rhodes, Poplarville and Mrs. Elton (Linda) Whitley, Tupelo, who were WMU camp conference leaders in the area of Baptist Young Women. Don't forget the October 15 deadline!

For more information write or telephone, Marilyn Hopkins, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 (Telephone 354-3704).

Information needed with registration: church name, number attending, amount of money enclosed, person sending reservation, and address and telephone (office and home) of person sending reservation. Send to Marilyn Hopkins at above address.

**Jack Gritz Retires Early In Oklahoma**

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP) — The board of directors of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma approved a motion that Jack Gritz, editor of the Baptist Messenger, retire early, effective Sept. 11.

Gritz, who will be 63 in December, observed his 30th anniversary as editor of the Oklahoma Baptist weekly news publication, July 31. He has served longer than any current editor of one of 34 state Baptist newspapers.

Before joining the paper in 1949, when he succeeded Albert McClellan as editor, Gritz was a pastor in Oklahoma and former associate secretary of the state convention's department of religious education.

A native of Okmulgee, Okla., Gritz is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and earned the master of theology degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and the doctor of theology degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

**Causey, Baker To Open Baptist Convention**

(Continued from Page 1)

Committee to call together an ad hoc consultation of skilled laymen to think through the implementation of Bold Mission Thrust. The Brotherhood Commission was requested to assume responsibility for organizing and staffing at least 10 regional conferences.

The agencies involved in Volunteers in Missions were requested to add to their listing of volunteers the names of laymen with a wide variety of unique skills. And the state conventions were urged to form ad hoc advisory committees and work groups to enable them to use the wisdom and skills of "eminently qualified laymen."



Brooks Wester and Harold Bennetts.

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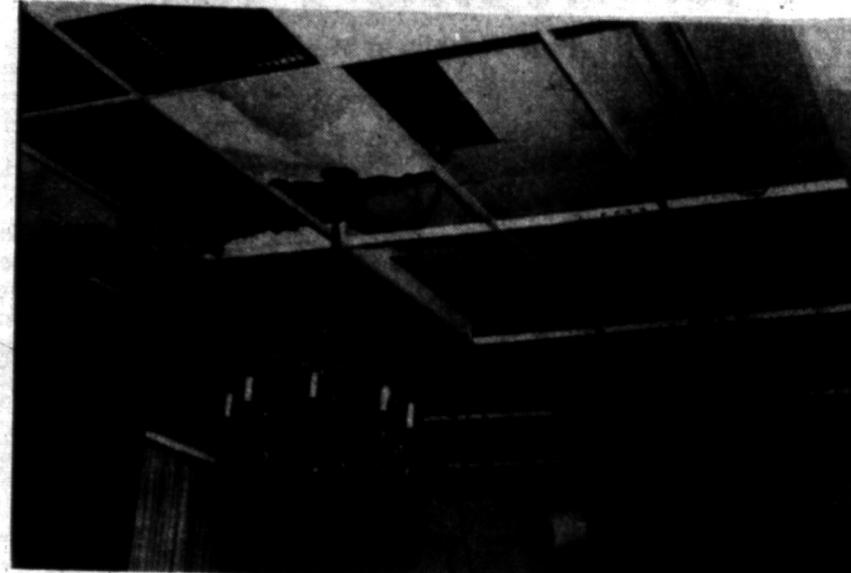
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# Frederic Left A Mess



Baptist Seamen's Center, Pascagoula.



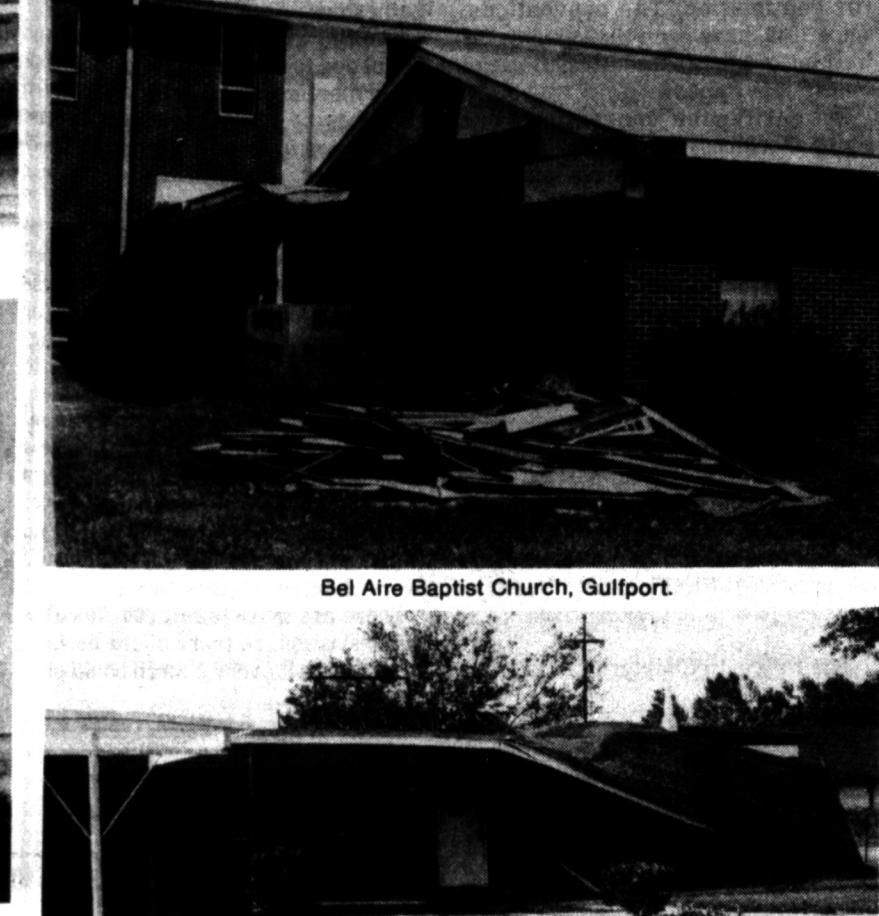
Pass Road Baptist Church, Gulfport.



East Howard Baptist Church, Biloxi.



Bus garage, First Baptist Church, Pascagoula.



Bel Aire Baptist Church, Gulfport.



Unity Baptist Church, Pascagoula.



First Baptist Church, Moss Point.



FBC, Biloxi pastor, Frank Gunn at his home.

## Billy Graham Makes Comments

New York (EP) — Evangelist Billy Graham, in a wide-ranging interview here, discussed his stand on disarmament, the Marshall Frady biography, and changes in his thinking on social issues.

Of his current position favoring disarmament, he said he had been influenced both by briefings from public officials and by studying every reference to peace in the Bible. As an example of another change in his thinking, the evangelist commented that "the mission of the church to the world is evangelism and service. I didn't use to add 'service.'"

Referring to Mr. Frady's massive biography, *Billy Graham: A Parable of American Righteousness*, Mr. Graham said, "A lot of his material is not exactly accurate." But the evangelist called the author "a very charming person and one that I'd like to cultivate as a friend."

Asked whether it is possible for a public official like President Carter or Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) to be a "Christian politician," Mr. Graham gave an affirmative answer. He cautioned that "the fact that a man is a Christian does not mean that he may be more competent" than one who is not, but said he did not feel it inappropriate for a public official to relate his positions to his understandings of Scripture because "people want to know what a man believes."

## Home Missions Experience

The "Home Missions Experience" begins next week, and runs Oct. 1-4 at Mississippi College in Clinton.

It will feature a number of home missionaries in workshop sessions during the days, and as speakers during the evenings.

Included will be a dramatic presentation and a musical both written by Ed Seabough of the HMB staff.

Local choirs will offer music and the public is invited to the entire program.

### Mississippi Baptist Activities

- Sept. 28-29 Acteens Leaders' Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 5 p.m., 28th-2 p.m., 29th (WMU)
- 28-29 Music Leadership Clinic, FBC, Jackson, 5:00 p.m., 28th-12:30 p.m., 29th (Church Music)
- 28 Ethnic Evangelism Institute, Baptist Building, Jackson, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Cooperative Missions)
- Sept. 30 Church Training Installation and Recognition Night (CT Emphasis)
- Sunday School Preparation (SS Emphasis — local churches)
- Oct. 4 New Staff Orientation, Baptist Building, Jackson
- Oct. 6 GA Super Saturday, Camp Garaywa, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (WMU)

## Bivocational Pastors Lead Double Lives

By Tim Nicholas

Which are they: non-stipendiary clergy, or bivocational pastors? Another denomination uses the former term. Apparently Baptists prefer the latter — though it is still fairly new in usage.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department recently held a series of conferences for these bivocational pastors — men who hold down a secular job in addition to being pastor of a church.

The meetings, held in Simpson, Lee, Scott and Grenada/Yalobusha Associations, were led by Hollis Bryant of the Cooperative Missions Department staff. Resource personnel included J. T. Burdine of the Home Mission Board, and Bob Johnson of Midwestern Seminary, formerly with Seminary Extension.

Burdine of the HMB told the group that he believes bivocational pastors "have a clearer sense of call because of the 40 hours on that secular job." He cited statistics that 18 out of every 100 Southern Baptist church members have a pastor who is bivocational. And he added that the HMB has identified more than 1,200 places in the nation which need an evangelical witness but there are no funds to support a pastor.

He said that bivocational pastors are likely the answer in those places.

Johnson of Midwestern said that 53 percent of Southern Baptist pastors have never attended a Southern Baptist seminary.

"We are trying to reach out through seminary extension through correspondence or classes," he said. He said there is a need for training and maturing that seminary extension can aid.

"A lot of dynamic things take place when we sit down together to learn," he said. Johnson called these times "aha" moments.

members is a lesser thing to him. He has a weekly radio program on WVLY radio in Water Valley that he said gave him the "possibility of preaching to over 10,000 people every week." He said he doesn't have enough time to study or to develop his home life. He would like to attend the Mississippi Baptist Convention and he gets irritated when people say such things as "Brother Sellers is not a fully dedicated man of God because he's teaching school."

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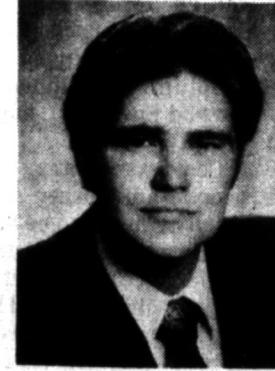
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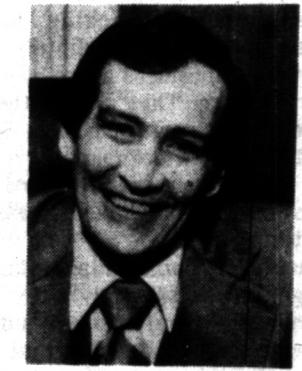
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## Newsbriefs

Princeton, N. J. (EP) — Religious prejudice in the United States has recorded a major decline in the last quarter century, says the latest Gallup Poll. The survey, which interviewed 1,500 adults from May 4 to May 7, found a drop both in the numbers of people who were concerned about Catholics and Jews having too much power and in those who have had experiences that made them dislike Catholics, Protestants, or Jews.

A 1952 poll found that 41 percent of the Protestants surveyed felt Catholics were trying to gain too much power in the nation. That figure dropped to 30 percent in 1965, and fell to 11 percent in the latest survey. Protestants made up about 45 percent of the people questioned in the most recent poll.

New York (EP) — Religious leaders from several traditions have stepped up their attacks on the new Monty Python film "Life of Brian," calling it "blasphemy" and "sacrilege." "Life of Brian" depicts a fictional contemporary of Jesus, who spouts obscenities and has a mother who is a prostitute. "Brian" is a reluctant messiah born on Christmas night, who joins the People's Liberation Front of Judea and is crucified by the Roman Army.

Washington (EP) — The U. S. Catholic Church kicked off a campaign here to evangelize an estimated 80 million unchurched Americans, including some 12 million "fallen away" Catholics.

Chattanooga, Tenn. (EP) — A voluntary Bible study program, recently redesigned to make it objective and descriptive and with religious tests for teachers eliminated, has been approved by a federal judge for use in the public schools of Chattanooga and surrounding Hamilton County.

St. Johns, Ohio (EP) — A United Methodist minister in this small West Central Ohio community has found a unique way to raise money for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Churchwide Disaster Appeal. Larry Swaisgood played ping pong; for 27 hours and 14 minutes and raised nearly \$400 which will be turned over to UMCOR to aid the victims of last spring's tornadoes and floods in Oklahoma and Texas, Mississippi and Alabama. The money came from donations and pledges for each hour of ping pong played. During the 27 years he played 184 games against 30 opponents and won 133 of the games; many while sitting in a chair.

# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

### Inseparably linked . . .

## The convention, the Cooperative Program

October is Cooperative Program month for Southern Baptists, and Nov. 13 to 15 are the dates for the Mississippi Baptist Convention. In many ways the two are inseparably linked together.

It is true that the state convention was organized in 1836, and the Cooperative Program did not come into existence until 1925. The common bond of the two is missions.

The state convention exists as a way to carry out missions endeavors. The Cooperative Program exists as a way to finance missions. Both point to the Great Commission as the reason for their being.

Mississippi Baptists organized into a convention before there was a Southern Baptist Convention, which was organized in 1845. For a Texan, it is interesting to note that in the year that Texas won its independence from Mexico there were already enough Baptists in Mississippi to establish a convention organization that has continued until this day. Now we are about to have our 144th convention session.

Baptists long ago discovered the

secret of being able to cooperate in spite of their independence as a means of being better able to serve the Lord and of being better able to carry out His commission. The conventions, since 1836, have been the vehicles for working out the cooperative efforts of Mississippi Baptists.

Primarily, the conventions are times of business. We are dealing with the Lord's work, and we are financing it with the Lord's money. We cannot afford to let such matters be handled by a person or a committee without the authorization of the larger body of Baptists in the state. So we meet to hear how the work has progressed, to hear what plans have been made for continuation of the work, and to establish the guidelines and the financial arrangements for handling the work.

Now this is terribly important business, and every church in the state should seek to find those in its membership who would be able to attend the session at First Baptist Church in Jackson to help in making these decisions.

There are more than 1,900 churches in Mississippi, so there could be 4,000 messengers if every church could only

the account of an early gathering of Christians to make decisions that would affect the work. Conventions have continued to be very important gatherings.

The church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem to attend that early meeting, and it is the duty of the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention to select and elect the people who will attend the conventions.

Make no mistake, the churches do not have to send messengers. A church may cooperate in every way and use all of the literature that is possible for us to use and participate in every program there is, and it does not have to send a messenger to the convention. But how much better informed it will be if it does send messengers. And how much more its influence will count in the affairs of the Lord's work if it does.

If there are to be messengers, it is up to the churches to select them, and every church is entitled to at least two.

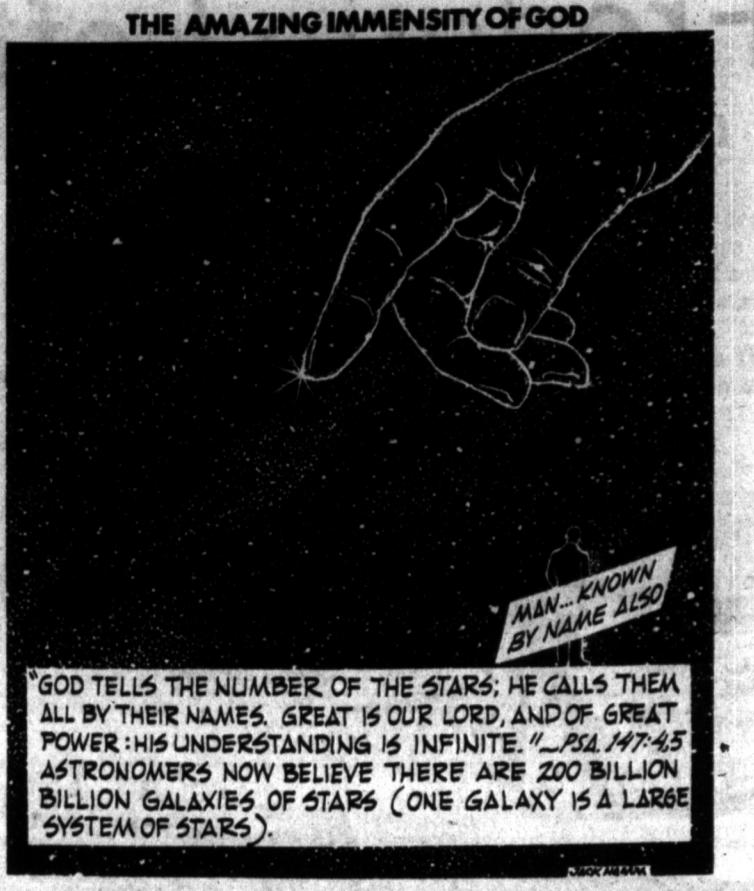
There are more than 1,900 churches in Mississippi, so there could be 4,000 messengers if every church could only

send two. Many churches are entitled to the full complement of 10 messengers. Generally, there are only about 1,000 or so in attendance. So we are carrying on the Lord's business with less than 25 per cent of those present who should be participating in the decisions.

There should be someone from every church who would be able to attend.

During October we will place special emphasis on the ministry of the Cooperative Program. It has meant more to the Kingdom of God than we can imagine. We gladly channel our gifts through the Cooperative Program because we want the fruit of our labor to be useful in every corner of our world.

Let's carry through on this commitment to ministry by having messengers from every church in attendance at the state convention to help make the decisions that will affect the ministry of the Cooperative Program and thus be involved in every endeavor that Baptists are a part of in Mississippi and around the world.



## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

### Not What It Seemed To Be

Mobile in the news last week after Hurricane Frederic reminded me of a trip I made to that section of Alabama about 12 years ago. My cousin Guy Smith lived on the bay at Point Clear. Later, a hurricane damaged his house and he moved to Fairhope.

Anyhow, Daddy and Mama and my niece Luann, and I were on our way to see him at Point Clear. We were almost there, between Fairhope and Point Clear. I was driving — I don't remember how fast — when I saw an object on my side of the highway. My long-distance vision is not as accurate as it should be, but I thought the object looked like a cardboard box.

A car was coming toward us, so I could not swerve to the left of the object. In a brief glance I could not be sure about the condition of the shoulder of the road on the right, so I thought, 'If it's a pasteboard box, it won't hurt to run over it. I've hit them before.'

Daddy could see, even from the back seat, that it was not a box, but he was so terrified when he saw I was going to hit it (he told me later) that his tongue simply froze to the roof of his mouth and he couldn't make a sound.

I did slow down, but not enough for impact with a piece of iron that had a sharp point sticking straight up. The object squeezed between my left front wheel and the motor, and missed both of them, but tore a hole all the way through the floorboard under the seat I was in, and made a big dent in the back floorboard under Luann's feet. If it had gone through the back as it did in the front, I don't know what it would have done to her feet and legs.

It ripped all the way through the gas tank; all the gasoline (not so expensive then) poured out on the highway. I managed to guide the car off the pavement before we stopped. In fear of an explosion we all jumped out and got away from the car. But I know the Lord must have been looking out for us, because the explosion did not

occur.

A woman came out of a house beside the road and said she had seen a loaded scrap-iron truck drop the piece of metal and thought it might be dangerous, but she had not gone to remove it.

She permitted us to use her phone to call a wrecker. We called Guy: his son came to get Mama and Luann, then I, while Daddy and I waited to see about the car repair. A wrecker from another town, (one we did not call) stopped. The driver said he would tow us in. We told him we had already called another. He said, 'Oh, they are too slow! No telling when they'll get here! You ought to go ahead and let me do it.' Anxious to be on our way, we listened to him.

At the repair shop Daddy and I stayed by the mechanics, trying to rush them along (and I expect aggravating them no end). The wrecker we had called appeared, and presented a bill — so we had to pay two wreckers. But we got a new gas tank and arrived at Guy's before dark.

Now doesn't that prove that things are not always what they seem to be? What I thought was a box, on close contact turned out to be something quite different.

Wine that looks red in the cup afterward can sting like an adder. A chocolate bar that looks delicious in its colorful wrapping afterward can add a roll of fat.

People aren't always what they seem to be, either. Someone may appear nice on the surface, but when you collide with him or her, the veneer is knocked off and you hear the voice of the real person underneath.

What does this mean to me? First, I can take two looks at those enticing temptations before I succumb to them. Second, I can try to make myself a person who is the same outwardly and inwardly. There's an old-fashioned saying, "What is in the well of your heart comes up in the bucket of your mouth."

## October — Cooperative Program Month

October is prayer time for the ministries supported through the Cooperative Program. Also, we need to make known the tremendous impact in the world today. You would have to take more than 30 special offerings each year to accomplish what the Cooperative Program is doing. It's a unique plan, blessed of God, and has brought blessings to people in 94 countries, plus our nation, state, and community. The Cooperative Program is our pipeline to the world.

(January-August 1979)

185 Churches gave nothing in 1978 or 1979 through the Cooperative Program

50 Churches gave in 1978 but nothing thus far in 1979

396 Churches gave less in 1979 than in previous year

1,265 Churches gave more in 1979 than in previous year

56 Churches gave the same amount both years

63 Churches gave nothing in 1978 but are now contributing

Kelly, Dr. Foy Rogers, and others.

I have a special request to make of you.

I would like very much for you and all other editors throughout the Southern Baptist Convention to call upon all the Christians to unite in prayer that God will, in his own way, reveal himself to Madalyn Murray O'Hair in such an unforgettable way that she will praise Him rather than curse Him.

This has been my prayer for months, and I would like for those who believe in prayer to join me.

We say we believe in prayer. I challenge all men and women everywhere to begin now and not stop until the answer comes.

V. R. Crider, Pastor  
Damascus Baptist Church  
Flora

Unless otherwise indicated, all material in this month's inspirational section was written by Dr. Horace G. Hammett, Columbia, S. C., former general secretary-treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Mrs. Clint Malugen  
Assistant editor  
Mature Living

### Students At Penn State

Editor:

There is a strong and growing Southern Baptist Church in State College, Pa., the home of Penn State University. If you would urge your readers to send us the names and addresses of Baptist or non-Baptist students and/or acquaintances coming to Penn State this fall, we will do our best to minister to them.

Thank you for helping us to build a strong Baptist witness in Pennsylvania.

Dennis L. Back, Pastor  
South Hills Baptist Church  
1524 University Dr.  
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### Registration procedures . . .

## All should exercise care

Last June the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston asked Convention Registration Secretary Lee Porter to investigate the registration of messengers to the convention. There had been quite a political campaign mounted, and many messengers evidently wondered if it had affected the registration. Indeed, it became apparent that one of the leaders of the campaign had not been a member of the church that named him as a messenger.

But alas, he was not the only one.

### Hurricane Frederic . . .

## A long time in forgetting

Associate Editor Tim Nicholas and I drove to Pascagoula on Thursday following Hurricane Frederic on Wednesday. We moved into a world of almost total darkness, for it was about 10 p.m. when we arrived; and there was no electric service.

The only oasis of light, almost, in the city came from the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit, which was using its own generator. Nearby, the Singing River Hospital also had emergency lights. Other than that — darkness.

Friday morning revealed an area in which almost every building had some damage. We were mostly interested in churches and homes of Baptists in our limited time for checking, but it seemed apparent immediately that almost every business in the city had major damage. That affects the income of the residents, of course. Some buildings with wide spans covering their floor space were destroyed. Others were damaged beyond use for some time.

Almost every home had some kind of damage, but we saw only a few that were ruined. Time after time residents said to us, "The Lord laid that tree down so that it just missed my house." Clark McMurray, pastor of First Baptist Church, had a tree lying on his roof; but when I last talked with him he had hopes that it could be removed

without damage. Bobby Perry, pastor of First Church, Moss Point, had 18 big trees lying in his yard; but none touched the house. Wind was so strong there that the north wall of the auditorium was moved in by some inches.

The director of missions in Jackson County, Allen Webb, and Mrs. Webb drove to Jackson before the storm and returned to the city expecting to find their home, situated on the water, in ruins; but they found it intact. Two doors down the street a house was almost demolished.

First Church, Gautier, also suffered heavy damage. Calvary Church, Pascagoula, had its steeple blown off and a hole punched in its education building. Pastor Byron Mathis said this was minimal compared to what it might have been.

Several churches lost steeples and signs.

Webb, said he had not had an opportunity of getting any sort of a total on church damage in his county. At a pastors' conference on Monday of this week he was going to try to gather a total figure.

Rusty Griffin, consultant in the Brotherhood Department, was to attend that pastors' conference meeting and gather requests for aid. The state

Campers on Mission organization was also expected to move into the area with assistance. Most of what is needed, Webb said, is cleaning up the debris around the homes of the elderly and securing the damaged church building against further damage.

Five church groups have brought in loads of food and clothes, Webb said. The need is more for food than clothes, because few lost their clothes. The food seems to be abating, but there could be some need still present, he indicated. This was another item to be determined at the pastors' conference.

Those church groups responding with food were First Church, Carrere; Grace Memorial, Picayune; a group from Columbia; Ephesus Church, Forest; and Lowndes County Association.

Over in Gulf Coast Association, Director of Missions Sam Turner said

damage would run higher than he had first expected. He now expects the total to be close to \$250,000; but most of the churches, losses will be covered by insurance, he said. Only one, Olivet, had no insurance. It was negotiating with an insurance company when the storm hit. The church is borrowing \$3,000 to enable it to get things back in shape, but the need is greater than that, according to Turner.

As was the case with the Easter flood in Jackson, perhaps those away from the scene are prone to feel that now that the storm is over it can be forgotten. But those who lived through it will be a long time in forgetting.—DTM

Both Pass Road and First Church, Biloxi, had about \$40,000 in damage. First Church Pastor Frank Gunn sustained about \$6,000 in damages to his home. Calvary Church had \$8,000, Bel Air had \$20,000, and East Howard had \$10,000.

While there has been no state-wide fund-raising effort initiated, the greatest need is for money. Money will take care of needs such as physical damage and food. Those who are interested in making donations might send them directly to the associations, or they could send them to the offices of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The checks sent to the board offices should be clearly designated so that there could be no mistake about the use of the money and what area it is to be sent to.

There was some amount of wind damage at both William Carey College in Hattiesburg and at Clarke College in Newton. Both colleges suspended classes on the day following the hurricane. At Carey there were some windows out in dorms and some damage from leaks.

As was the case with the Easter flood in Jackson, perhaps those away from the scene are prone to feel that now that the storm is over it can be forgotten. But those who lived through it will be a long time in forgetting.—DTM

in your leadership role and in Cooperative Program support. Dr. Dilday and the rest of the Southwestern family commit our best to bear fruit that is eternal through the preparing of God-called men and women for the ministry. Pray for us.

Lloyd Elder  
Executive Vice-President  
Southwestern Seminary

The scholarship figure is \$620.—Editor

### Fruit that is Eternal

Editor:  
Southwestern has had another Fall of unprecedented enrollment, 3,564 as compared to 3,447 last Fall. What a thrilling, awesome opportunity.

In still another way we are communicating to each student the investment Southern Baptists are making in his or her theological training. The enclosed void bill gives you an actual copy of the average Cooperative Program "scholarship" to each student.

May the Lord continue to guide you

Perhaps you have never heard of me. My age and health have kept me out of the public affairs of our state convention. I am still pastoring a small church at age 71 and have no thought of retiring.

You may ask some of the old-timers around Baptist Building about me; Dr. Hammett.

### Prayer For Mrs. O'Hair

Editor:  
To an oversight, the following identification and credit was omitted from the "Communing with God" section of the October 1979 issue of *Mature Living*. The editorial staff of *Mature Living* regrets this error and any inconvenience it may have caused Dr. Hammett.

### Disaster Unit —

#### Tremendous

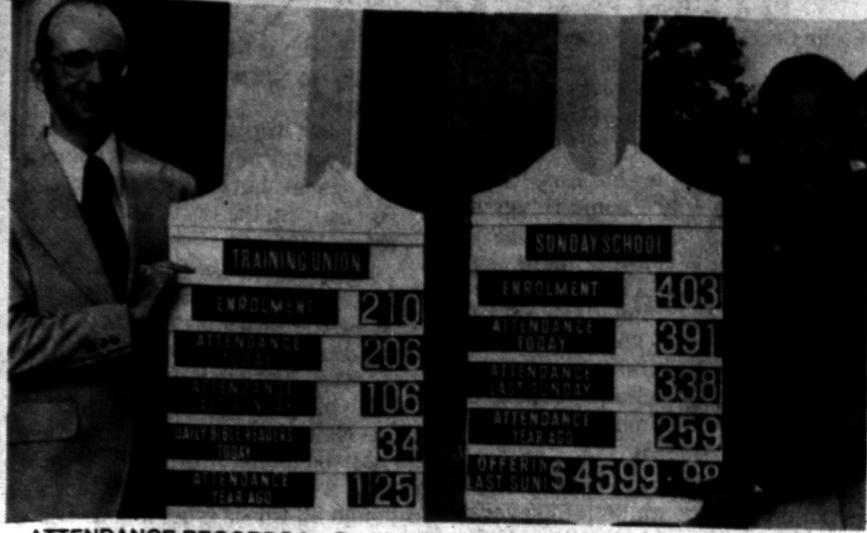
Editor:

Leila Mae and I drove back home from Jackson after the hurricane, not expecting to find anything left of our home. We were overjoyed to find that the damage was only minor in nature.

The next thing that brought real joy was when we saw the operation of our Mississippi Baptist Disaster Unit. It was very significant that Rusty Griffin and his volunteers were on the spot serving meals from one to two days before any other agency was in operation. It gave evidence of real training and efficiency. We were there when the need was the greatest to serve, the hungry when food was not available elsewhere.

When the disaster unit was dedicated, I thought, "That is a nice idea," but when I saw it in operation in a disaster area, I said "Thank God, this is

# Just For The Record . . .



ATTENDANCE RECORDS for Sunday School and Church Training were set at MT. ZION CHURCH, Columbus, on Aug. 19. Shown are (left) Ron Colburn, Church Training director, and (right) Gary Chism, Sunday School director. The high attendance emphasis began a revival that resulted in 77 PROFESSIONS OF FAITH and many other decisions. The church is located in New Hope community, east of Columbus. The pastor is Ray Hill.



EASTVIEW CHURCH, LAUREL had a note-burning ceremony Aug. 26 to celebrate pay-off of the church debt. This was followed by a covered-dish luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Left to right: Charles Taylor; Danny Henderson, pastor; Troy Walters; and E. J. Kirkland.



RULEVILLE CHURCH dedicated a new 15-passenger 1979 Dodge van on Aug. 12. The vehicle was bought for \$10,544. The pastor, A. M. Moore, III, says it will be used in youth, education, and outreach ministries.

**Christian Religious Art Show** Poplar Springs Drive Church Meridian is sponsoring a religious art show Oct. 14-19 in its Christian Life Center. Categories include art from grades 1-6, 7-12, and adult. Judging will be

held and ribbons awarded. On Sunday evening, Oct. 14, a special worship, featuring Sam Gore, Professor of Art at Mississippi College, will be held in the sanctuary.

## Names In The News . . .



Bernard Blackwell, Director of Alumni Affairs at Mississippi College (left) recently accepted on behalf of the college an unrestricted gift in church bonds from Dr. William H. Fancher, a 1952 graduate. Dr. Fancher is also a 1956 graduate of the Baylor University Medical School in Anesthesia. He is now associated with the Doctors Hospital in Jackson as the Director of Anesthesiology.

Truett Myers of Fort Worth has been named communications consultant at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., by President Russell H. Dilday Jr. The appointment is for the 1979-80 academic year.

In announcing the appointment, Dilday said Myers would review, evaluate and explore present and potential communications strategies relating to all areas of the seminary, including equipment, instruction, promotion, fund raising and denominational relations. Myers, a Texan, retired July 31, 1979, as senior vice president for

production services at the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. He has more than 30 years of experience in telecommunications for the SBC.

Georgia native Thomas A. Kinchen has been named as administrative assistant to the executive vice president of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Kinchen, who is from Thomasville, Ga., will serve primarily as church work consultant in the public relations office of the Seminary. He will be dealing with churches which submit requests for names of students and alumni for consideration for church staff positions. Other responsibilities will include public relations and student recruitment duties.

Kinchen replaced Eddie Gandy, who resigned to become pastor of the Stephendale Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La.

Mrs. Doris E. Posey of Yazoo City, member of Center Ridge Church, has again joined the Mission Service Corps, to go to Israel for a year. Her assignment will be that of a cook for Baptist Village at Central Sharon, Israel.

Her room and board and local transportation will be provided by Baptist Village. Her transportation and incidental expenses of \$2,165.50 will come from undesignated Mission Service Corps gifts.

This is the second volunteer mission assignment that Mrs. Posey has had. Last year she worked for a short time at the European Baptist Seminary in Switzerland. She plans to arrive in Israel Oct. 1.

### 25th Anniversary

Parkview Church, Leland, will celebrate its 25th anniversary and homecoming Sunday, Sept. 30. A former pastor, Jimmy Irving, will preach at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall. The Stokes Trio from Greenville will sing in the afternoon. Billy Purser is pastor.

Luther M. Dorr, newly elected member of the Instructional Staff of the School of Christian Training and former pastor of the Sevanna Park

Church in Sevanna, MD, is pictured as he signs the Statement of Religious Beliefs at the 62nd annual Convocation of the New Orleans Seminary. Dorr, a native of Sardis, Miss., participated in the traditional signing ceremony along with four other professors who have been called into service within the last year. — (N.O.B.T.S. Photo by Jimmy McFatter)

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Last year she worked for a short time at the European Baptist Seminary in Switzerland. She plans to arrive in Israel Oct. 1.

Walter Hines, pastor, says that what has been accomplished at Bowlin in the past three years "is not the work of man altogether. While God uses men, He must receive all credit and glory. Truly, what has happened is positive proof that Bowlin is the church that 'refused to die.'"

Shady Grove Church, near Bogie Chitto, is celebrating the 125th anniversary of its founding, on Sunday, Oct. 7.

The homecoming services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. "We

will be working to have more than 100 people present for Sunday School on this day," states Eddie Graves, pastor.

Special guest speaker for the morning service will be John Flowers, pastor of First Church, Sedatobia. He was

pastor there for eight years during

which time Shady Grove celebrated its 100th anniversary. This service will be followed by dinner-on-the-grounds.

Afternoon plans include singing and the dedication of a new piano and organ speaker.

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# SCRAPBOOK

## The Late Apple Tree

I have an autumn rendezvous;  
The lanes of brown and gold are kind—  
They know I'm only passing through  
Until in sharp relief I find

The old house place where chimney  
rocks.  
A myrtle tree, some bits of hedge  
Seem all that's left, 'till cloistered spot  
And cardinal bright upon a ledge

Where once had rested on her face  
Full autumn's blush, my apple tree—  
On mossed gray limb, the only trace  
One cluster still waits for me.

—Valerie Boyd Howell

## Beautiful Are They

Beautiful faces are they that wear  
The light of a pleasant spirit there;  
Beautiful hands are they that do  
Deeds that are noble, good, and true;  
Beautiful feet are they that go  
Swiftly to lighten another's woe.

—McGuffey's Second Reader.

## September

Haze hangs heavy in the hollows,  
Heady grapes fall purple  
from the vines  
crepe myrtle carpets the bare earth  
pungent pale althea  
turns to wine  
sumac blazing crimson by the  
roadways

butterflies pirouetting in the sun  
God's ethereal palette turns to flame  
all these simple composites  
say it's September again.

## God's Glory

Once I stood — upon a hill  
And watched the sun go down.  
The aurora flamed across the sky  
In tones of green and kins of brown.

Distant purple mountains tinged with  
gold —  
At their feet the sunlit lake of old  
The colors fade, and one last gleam  
Speaks of God's handiwork supreme.

The shadows creep across the vale,  
Changing the hues to one.  
God in His glory reviews  
His work in the setting of the sun.

—Cleone W. Langley

## Gulfshore

I went last week to Gulfshore,  
And I spent some time in prayer.  
I had lost some enthusiasm,  
And I really found it there.

We worshipped, and we sang,  
And we went to classes, too.  
And we studied the word of God,  
Because we know it's true.

There were blue skies and white  
sands,  
And friendly voices talking.  
Exercise is good for us,  
So we spent our spare time walking.

I needed rejuvenation,  
And I truly found it, too.  
Why don't you take a trip there?  
It could do the same for you.

Madge Gill

## Good News

Out of darkness into marvelous light;  
Blindness healed into glorious sight;  
The Gospel of Christ revealed to me  
Richly and mercifully that I might see.

—Sarah Peugh

## Guerrillas Close Baptist School In Rhodesia

SANYATI, Zimbabwe Rhodesia (BP) — Guerrillas closed the Baptist Elementary and High Schools in Sanyati, Zimbabwe Rhodesia, Aug. 20, following the last day of classes for the first term.

A group of 12 to 15 guerrillas visited the school that evening, talked to students and staff and told them the school would not be allowed to operate for the next term, said Marion G. (Bud) Fray Jr., the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's field representative for Southern Africa.

The guerrillas were not violent, he said, and expressed a desire that the Sanyati Baptist Hospital continue operating.

The school board scheduled a meeting Aug. 25 to consider alternate locations for offering the last term of this year to grades 10 and 12, Fray said.

Students in those grades must take qualifying exams for entrance into the next level at the end of their final term.

In 1977, seniors at the Sanyati school, the nation's only Baptist high school, scored highest in the nation on graduation exams used throughout Africa and Europe to determine qualification for graduation and to measure scholastic achievement.

In another incident in mid-July, guerrillas took about \$1,000 and medical supplies worth another \$350 to \$400 from the compound.

The school and hospital have been operating under local Baptist leadership. Transfer to local leadership was accelerated in June 1978, when the guerrilla murder of Southern Baptist missionary Archie G. Dunaway Jr. caused missionaries to evacuate the compound.

## Students Eyeing Church Vocations

### Total 17,157

NASHVILLE — The number of Southern Baptist students preparing for church vocations surged by 3,378 last year to 17,157, a Southern Baptist Sunday School Board survey for the year ending April 30 revealed.

"It appears that Southern Baptists' commitment and support to the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis is having its effect on college students," said Charles Roselle, National Student Ministries (NSM) secretary.

An increase in mission support was also seen as the number of students involved in Baptist Student Union missions increased by 769 to a total of 5,064 this year.

The summer mission participation breakdown was — 409 students involved in Home Mission Board areas; 105, Foreign Mission Board areas; and 4,888, state projects.

—Dallas (EP) — The Islamic Association of North Texas has purchased a site here for a \$1 million center to serve the estimated 5,000 Muslims in the Dallas area. The center will house a mosque with a minaret, a school, a library and a clinic, said Mohammad Suleiman, chairman of the coordinating committee of the project.

## Life and Work Lesson

## Witnessing By Dying

By W. Thomas Baddley  
First Church, Brandon  
Philippines 1:19-26;

II Timothy 1:11-12; 4:6-8

Much has been made of the final concert by the late Elvis Presley. His final song, replayed on TV so many times, begins with the words: "And now, the end is near . . ." It continued until he sings the title: "I Did It My Way." In light of recently revealed information about Elvis' drug use, it would seem that his way wasn't very pleasant. Paul asserted that though the "end is near," he had done it Christ's way; or rather Christ, himself, had done it through Paul.

### I. Triumphant Witnessing Among Difficulties (Philippians 1:19-23)

Paul was concerned about facing his ordeal. He doesn't seem to have any real feeling of how it would turn out — release from prison or execution. Instead, he looked for "deliverance" in its fullest meaning, whatever the outcome.

Though he was in a difficult position, Paul's concern was not for his own physical well-being, but rather he expressed a strong desire that his every act and word would continue to "magnify Christ boldly." This was the same goal toward which he had set his course since his conversion on the road to Damascus. Paul's fate as a man was of secondary concern. He wanted to honor Christ "whether it be by life or by death (v. 20)."

Paul did not fear death, nor did he seek escape from life's hardships via death. To him, death was the gateway to a fuller existence than the full life he had already known in Christ. If he should die, Paul knew he would experience heightened life because he would be with Jesus.

He admitted in verse 23 that if he had the choice of continuing life on earth or continuing life with Christ through his human death that he would lean toward death. (The word translated "to depart" in verse 23 was a military term that meant "to break camp and move on.") This appealed to Paul.

### II. Living For Others (Philippians 1:24-26)

No matter how enticing he found death to be, Paul remembered that his ministry was "others"-centered. He was sent not for his own personal comfort, but to tell others (like the Philip-

pions) about Jesus.

Until God called him to heaven, Paul looked ahead to further earthly ministry. So, in this letter, he anticipates a return, a coming again to the friends and prospects of Philippi. And he assured them that when he arrived, he would have more reason to glory in Jesus Christ.

### III. Confidence In Christ (II. Timothy 1:11-12)

The cause of Paul's sufferings is plainly stated. He was being persecuted because he was a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ and a teacher of the Gentiles. Yet, instead of despising the cause, he rejoiced in the sufferings. "I am not ashamed," he proclaimed, because "I know whom I have believed."

Paul's confidence and trust was not placed in facts he had studied and learned. Paul placed his confidence in a person that he knew personally. To this point, Christ had proved trustworthy in sustaining Paul, helping him, keeping him, and Paul was not about to quit now.

"I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day." Paul had committed his earthly life to the service of Christ and trusted Jesus to continue it as long as God desired. He had also committed his eternal life to Jesus by faith and was trusting him to keep Paul as a part of the Heavenly Kingdom here on earth until God's time to "transfer" him to the heavenly realm.

Paul's belief in Christ had been tested by experience and he continued to trust God's ability to safeguard Paul's investment of his life and energies.

### IV. Sealing Witness With Martyrdom (II Timothy 4:6-8)

God's grace is more than the forgiveness of sins. It is also continuing help, support, strengthening and guidance through Christians' earthly ministries. In facing the final ordeal of pending execution, Paul experienced God's grace enabling him to look in the face of death victoriously. He rejoiced in the assurance that neither death nor life could separate him from God's love.

These verses (vv. 6-8) ring with fidelity. At last God was redirecting Paul. The ministry through Paul's body to the Gentiles was over. Now, his

"spiritual children" would carry it on, for Paul was near the end of earthly life. "I am ready." What glorious words! Can you say them?

"I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." These equally important statements humble and challenge us. Many have prepared for the end of life by trusting Christ for forgiveness of sins. The gift of eternal life is secured. But, how many have turned their lives obediently to the Lordship of Christ — fighting the fight well, running on the track that Christ prescribes, keeping the faith, not possessively but publically? It is a challenge and an inspiration. Let's not just read it and pass on to tomorrow untouched by its potential effect on our lives.

Whenever and however, Paul was ready to seal his life of incredible labor and sufferings with martyrdom. Truly, Paul "kept the faith."

## Chickasaw Has Seminary Center At Houston

The Chickasaw County Baptist Association is sponsoring a Seminary Extension Center in the county. This is their second year in operation. Last year they had one semester with two courses offered. There were 30 people who enrolled in both classes.

This school year they plan three semesters with two courses offered each semester. The first semester began Sept. 4 at First Church, Houston. On the first night 32 students enrolled.

There were six enrolled in the Bible course, "How to Understand the Bible." The teacher for this course is Bruce Cappleman, pastor, First Church, Houlka.

David Larrimore, minister of music for Calvary Church, Tupelo, is teaching a music class, "Fundamentals of Music," with 26 enrolled.

David Norris, pastor of Bethel Church, is the center's director. Before moving to Bethel, Norris was director of Quitman County Seminary Extension Center for four years.

## Leland Webb Named Editor Of Commission

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Leland F. Webb, 15-year veteran of The Commission magazine staff, has been named editor-designate of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's monthly publication.

Webb, managing editor since 1970, will assume full editorship Feb. 1, 1980, following the retirement of long-time editor Floyd H. North, according to Thomas W. Hill, communications department secretary. North, 65, came to the board in 1957 and has edited the publication for the last 20 years.

Webb, 47, said The Commission will "continue to try to serve the audiences we have with greater currency, dealing with subjects of current interest."

The magazine's goal, he noted, is for each issue to contain something of interest for every reader, aiming at a variety of topics.

A native of McAlester, Okla., Webb is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee. He received the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary.

Before joining The Commission staff as production editor in 1964, he was assistant editor of the Baptist Messenger, weekly paper of Oklahoma Baptists.

## Devotional One Pearl Of Great Price

By B. Z. Byrd, Pastor  
Clear Creek Church, Wayne County

Matt. 13:45-46

The merchant man is Christ. He found one pearl (the church) of great price, and sold his glory in Heaven to purchase us. There are some things of great importance to consider here.

1. There is only one goodly pearl. This means of fine quality and unique. There is nothing else like it.

2. It is not compared to a diamond that can be cut and made into several diamonds by the hand of the artists.

The pearl cannot be cut. It will grow but never decrease. The true church never decreases, it increases.

3. The pearl is formed as the result of an injury. A grain of sand or some foreign particle lodges in the moving part of an oyster shell and the pearl is formed by accretion. It is

not formed mechanically but vitally.

The church is formed because of an injury to Christ, as is formed vitally.

4. The pearl drains its substance from the oyster, never to be restored. We, as a church, drain our substance from the Lord, and we can't repay Him.

Among the things He gave up, or sold, was his riches. II Cor. 8:9 — For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

The New Testament does not say Christ lived for us, or thirsted for us, or became weary or was tempted for us.

Although all this is true, it repeatedly says he died for us. To be more precise he died for our sins.

To us it is come and get.

To Christ come and give.

It is my prayer, and I'm sure the prayer of all Christian people, that we can feel we might repay a small token, by spreading the gospel to some lost soul. That's the Pearl of GREAT PRICE.

## Mississippians Among 32 US-2 Missionaries

### B. Marv Knox

ATLANTA, (BP) — They hail from New York to Hawaii, from Florida to Washington. They'll work in ghetto gyms and stylish hotels, on sun-washed beaches and college campuses.

Their common denominator is love.

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board recently commissioned as US-2 missionaries 32 young college graduates who will spend the next two years serving in mission endeavors all across the United States.

He is suggesting the November boycott because that is the month when national ratings are done, he said. The focus of his complaint is the made-for-television movie based on the novel, *Flesh and Blood*. Wildmon declares that an incest scene which was supposed to have been deleted from the movie will be left in.

Dallas (EP) — The Islamic Association of North Texas has purchased a site here for a \$1 million center to serve the estimated 5,000 Muslims in the Dallas area. The center will house a mosque with a minaret, a school, a library and a clinic, said Mohammad Suleiman, chairman of the coordinating committee of the project.

## Uniform Lesson

view of the end of time. Interpreters read into the images and symbols their own preconceptions of the consummation. They rip Daniel and Revelation (portions of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Joel, and Zechariah are also apocalyptic) from their historical moorings. In doing so the primary purpose of the writings is lost in the shuffle.

These books were written to give comfort and encouragement to God's persecuted people. Daniel insists that, no matter what their present condition might be, "the saints of the most High shall . . . possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever." (7:18). John portrays the redeemed of all the ages in glory. The four beasts (cf. Ezekiel 1), so vividly described, reflect the total created order giving praise and adoration to the Sovereign God.

The reason for symbolism is obvious. The people of God were being persecuted during the writing of both books. These messages were sent in "code" which the enemy would not comprehend, but which the faithful would understand. The most serious abuses of apocalyptic writings evolve out of efforts to make the symbolic over into the literal.

**III. History and Eschatology**

Apocalyptic writing emphasizes eschatological hopes and expectations. Last things provide a point of focus. However, it must be made clear that the historical context provides the key to interpretation. Too many "students of prophecy" rush quickly into the future without so much as a glance at the past. The result is radical, misleading interpretations of Scripture.

Daniel sees the four beasts, representing four nations of history, against the background of the ultimate victory of the "Ancient of days," "one like the Son of man," and "the saints of the most High" (7:9, 13, 18). John pictures the struggles of persecuted Christians with the "beast" of the Roman Empire against the backdrop of the ultimate victory of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (11:15). In apocalyptic literature, therefore, present struggles and problems are seen in light of the end of history.